

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1276
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
OPENING WAGAH BORDER FOR TRADE
Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has persuaded Pakistan to open up Wagah Border for commercial cargo;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto; and
- (c) the efforts made for direct shipping linkages between India & Pakistan for cargo?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) During the Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan, held in Islamabad on August 11-12, 2004, India had, inter alia, suggested that the two sides could consider opening of Attari-Wagah land route for trade. Later, a formal proposal was made to Pakistan to implement the above suggestion. However, Pakistan has not responded to the proposal so far.

(c) The 1975 bilateral Protocol on Resumption of Shipping Services between India and Pakistan governs the movement of cargo between the two countries through ships.